families living the rural areas who could be targeted under its programmes. Last BPL Census 2002 was conducted for the Tenth Five Year Plan which was based on the methodology of Score Based Ranking of the Rural Households for which 13 Socio Economic Parameters were used. The BPL list so prepared by the States is to be approved by the Gram Sabha in its open meeting. For redressing the public grievances, a two-stage appeal mechanism was also provided. In order to ensure transparency, the States have been requested to keep the printed copies of the BPL list at the Village Panchayat level and also to post it on the public domain besides painting of IAY Permanent Waitlist on the wall of the common building. About 16 States have already posted the BPL data either on the State website or on the website of the Ministry of Rural Development.

(d) The first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) envisages eradication of extreme poverty and hunger with the target to halve the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day between 1990 and 2015. Keeping in view a large number of people living below the poverty line in the Country and the MDGs, Government has resorted to direct intervention for poverty reduction through various programmes specially focusing on generation of employment, development of rural infrastructure, strengthening of rural livelihood and providing basic amenities to the rural people. The present programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development such as, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) are the steps towards eradication of rural poverty and to achieve the MDGs of eradication of extreme poverty and hunger as well. The NREGA guarantees 100 days of wage employment to all the rural households in a financial year whose adult members volunteer to do the manual work. Under this programme, employment of 90.50 crore persondays was generated during 2006-07. During 2007-08 and 2008-09 (upto January '09) employment of 143.59 crore persondays and 152.12 crore persondays was generated, respectively. Under SGSY about 32 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed since 1999 and 115 lakh Swarozgaris were provided economic assistance to set up income generating activities. Under Indira Awaas Yojana, more than 63 lakh houses have been constructed for the rural poor during the last four years which provides better living environment to them. Under IGNOAPS it is anticipated that over 150 lakh beneficiaries will be covered during 2008-09.

The Ministry of Rural Development has proposed to restructure the self-employment programme of SGSY for its implementation in a mission mode and in a time bound manner with placement based skill development as one of major components. The objective is to provide sustainable employment to the rural poor and to step up the pace of eradication of poverty in the country.

Fake domicile certificates for recruitment in Army

*136. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some youths have provided fake domicile certificates purported to be issued by the State Governments during recruitment in Army;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government;

(c) whether Government has issued any instructions to State Governments to be vigilant in providing domicile certificates for recruitment in Army, since it is an issue of national security; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) A few instances of candidates attempting to get recruited in the Army on the basis of fake domicile certificates have been reported. The recruiting officers have been instructed to be vigilant. Stringent verification measures are in force to scrutinize the domicile/nationality, age and education qualification etc. of all candidates appearing for recruitment in Defence Forces. The domicile certificates issued by civil authorities are checked during various stages of recruitment and the candidates with fake domicile certificates are not permitted to attend the recruitment rally. Further, character and antecedents of the recruits are verified through the respective police/intelligence authorities. The State Governments have been requested to keep a vigil against candidates trying to get through the recruitment through fake certificates and provide necessary assistance to the recruiting offices.

Slowdown in foreign investment

*137. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is slowdown in foreign investment in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Government to attract foreign business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflow in the country has increased from US$ 5.5 billion in 2005-06 to US$ 24.5 billion in the year 2007-08. The FDI inflows during April-December, 2008 were US$ 21.15 billion, which represents an increase of 67% over the corresponding period in the previous year. FDI equity inflows during April-September, 2008 have shown an increasing trend each month in comparison to the same period in the previous year. However, the inflows in October-December, 2008 have shown a decline.

(c) Various studies by international agencies and world wide analysis have assessed that the FDI flows to developing economies would generally decline.

Under the liberalised economic environment, investment decisions of investors are based on macro-economic policy framework, investment climate in the host country, investment policies of the trans-national corporations and other commercial considerations. Government has put in place a liberal and investor-friendly policy on FDI under which FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route in most sectors/activities. The UNCTAD's World Investment